### TH park department to give city residents priority Sp JAN 26 1980

Mayor Pete Chalos announced last week that the Terre Haute Park and Recreation Department will accept reservations from city residents only until March 15, 1980, for shelters at Deming, Dobbs and Collett Parks.

Reservations made before this announcement will be honored, however.

After March 15, reservations will be accepted from residents living outside Terre Haute.

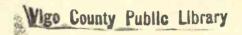
Chalos first said he was considering giving park use priority to city residents in an interview in The Spectator. He also said he may consider charging higher greens fees to out-of-city golfers in the future

City parks are supported from taxes

paid by city residents, while county parks such as Fowler Park are supported by taxes paid by both city and county residents.

To reserve a shelter at Deming or Dobbs park, persons should call the park office in City Hall, 232-2727. To reserve a shelter at Collett Park, persons should call the Collett pavillion, 466-1400.

Community Affairs File



REFERENCE DO NOT CIRCULATE

### Community Affairs File Funds sought to establish 2 8 1980 city park plan department

An application for federal funds to establish a new city park department plan was sent to the proper federal agency Tuesday, according to Park Superintendent Pat Ralston.

The application is seeking a planning grant from the Heritage Conservation Recreation Service of the federal Department of the Interior, Ralston

said.

The plan would be called a "recovery action plan" and in it would in provide an inventory of existing park facilities and priorities for future development, Ralston said. If approved, it would be an "in-depth study of what we've got and what we want to do," he said.

Such a plan is needed if the city wants to be eligible for funding from the Heritage Conservation Recreation Service, Ralston stated. That service provides funding for projects where the federal government pays 70 percent and the local entity

matches with 30 percent.

No final approval for the planning grant has been given yet, Ralston pointed out. As of this morning the only action had been the mailing of the

application.

What the city is seeking, according to Ralston, is a project where the federal government would supply an \$18,000 grant matched by \$18,000 of "inkind" services from the city for development of the plan. The city's match would be made up mostly of the service of department employees and facilities. Some money from the Department of Redevelopment's Community Development Block Grant program has been proposed for use in the city's match.

The total project includes provisions to hire a trained planner for six months to develop the plan.

Just because the city is developing a new park plan does not mean information in a previous master plan will be disregarded, Ralston said. Much of the information and some of the priorities in the master plan will be used in developing the additional plan, he explained.

DO NOT CIRCULATE

City gets park Wy Cy planning grant

The Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service has awarded Terre Haute's Park and Recreation Department an \$18,166 planning grant, according to a Friday announcement.

City Park Superintendent Pat Ralston said the \$18,166 grant is to be matched by local monies to extend the life of the city's park master plan

another five years.

The \$36,332 project is to include hiring a park and recreation planner for six months. Ralston said the planner is to be assisted by local park and recreation officials, redevelopment planners and representatives of the Vigo County Area Planning Department, West Central Indiana Economic Development District and the Terre Haute Housing Authority.

The purpose of the grant is to inventory the use of existing park facilities and make recommendations to upgrade them. Ralston said target areas of the project are swimming pools at city parks and renovation of

Fairbanks Park.

City officials said the project will enable Terre Haute to apply for a federal park and recreation grants on a 70-30 basis. The city now participates in a 50-50 matching grant

Community Affairs File

#### Parks and Residen (Vey, Co) New park restrooms slated

ceremony for restrooms project was initiated unin five city parks is to be der the administration of conducted at 1 p.m. Wed- former Mayor William nesday in Sheridan Park. according to an announcement from the office of Mayor Pete Chalos.

New restrooms are scheduled to be constructed in the following parks: Sheridan, Rose, Vorhees, Thompson and Memorial.

Park Superintendent Pat Ralston is to discuss the goals of the park department at the ceremony, according to the mayoral announcement.

Sheridan park is located at 29th and Beech streets.

The money to pay for the park restrooms is coming fron federal Community Develop-

A groundbreaking ment Block Grants. The J. Brighton.

Also Conuth bappic Tipisan

Community Affairs File

DO NOT CIRCULATE

# Cleaning Up Parks First Priority For Park Department

By J. BLAINE AKERS
Star Staff Writer

"We're going to take care of what we have before we make any major expansion in our park facilities," City Park Superintendent Pat Ralston said Wednesday following a groundbreaking ceremony Wednesday at Sheridan Park.

Ralston and other park officials participated in the official groundbreaking for a new shelter and restrooms at the northside park. The project is one of five planned by the park department. Shelters and restrooms also will be constructed at Voorhees, Memorial, Rose and Thompson parks.

"All together we are talking about \$179,000 for shelters and restrooms at the neighborhood parks," the new park superintendent said

the new park superintendent said.

The \$179,000 was procured by the Terre Haute
Department of Redevelopment, Ralston said. Construction of the facilities is to begin immediately
by Major & Sons Construction. The architect for the

project was John Curry.

According to Ralston, the city administration is principally interested in "cleaning up" local parks

in 1980.
"With the exception of plans at Spencer Ball Park, we have no immediate plans to expand our park facilities. We are going to concentrate on what we have and clean up those parks," Ralston said.

Ralston, 31, formerly a regional supervisor of nine state parks, said programs at city parks will be expanded, however.

"Dick Hanley is our director of recreation and he is organizing plans to expand programs in our parks on an around-the-year basis," Ralston said.

Park officials said they would apply for 70-30 matching funds with the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service for monies to upgrade park facilities and expand programs.

Officials still are preparing a contract for the najor expansion project planned at Spencer F. Ball Park, 15th Street and Eighth Avenue. The proposed contract includes a lighted baseball field, lighted ennis courts, a lighted basketball court, playgrounds, a rest area for adults, gardening for the landicapped, an exercise trail and a parking lot.

Ralston said the needs of the handicapped would be considered in every project handled by the park lepartment.



PARK SUPT. PAT RALSTON

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE DO NOT CIRCULATE

### Park Board okays 1980 plan development

The city Park and Recreation Board Tuesday approved a resolution allowing the department staff to seek a federal grant to pay for development of an additional city park plan.

The new plan would include an inventory and priorities for the department, according to Pat Ralston, park superintendent. The new plan would supplement the department's Master Plan, adopted in 1978, according to Ralston.

A new plan is needed for the city to be eligible for federal funding from the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service of the Department of the Interior, Ralston said.

Under that program, the federal government pays 70 percent of a project matched by 30 percent local-

The work that can be funded with that money mostly is for upgrading and rehabilitation of current facilities, Ralston said. It cannot be used for projects such as buying new land for the department. The new plan is to be done by June.

In other park board business Tuesday:

• Ralston reported his department is looking for some type of funding to be used in repair of the Collett Park Pavilion, constructed sometime in the late 1800s. The structure has a roof problem and a main support wall on the building's west side needs repair, he reported.

• The board learned from Ralston a stove has been installed in the Hulman maintenance building and the department plans to install a floor in that structure. It previously had no heat or floor.

• The superintendent reported some cleanup work has been under

way at the Rea Park clubhouse.

• Gloria Etheridge was welcomed as a new member of the board. She replaces Ed Schulz who received a plaque from Mayor Pete Chalos in honor of his service. The plaque was presented Tuesday by Kaye Hoole, Chalos' administrative assistant.

Community Affairs File

### Recovery in parks his goal

#### By BRYAN TAYLOR Tribune Staff Writer

Parks provide a good place for most people to relax and have a good time, but for Pat Ralston they mean plenty of work.

Ralston, 32, is in his third month as city park superintendent and he stresses public input to help develop the park program.

"This door's always open," said Ralston who also has worked in the state park system as a supervisor of the state parks in southern Indiana.

The department is alway open to suggestions and will follow up complaints to the best of its ability, Ralston said.

One of the department's first major projects under Ralston is the development of a "recovery" plan that will make the city eligible for federal funding to be used in rehabilitation of park facilities.

Ralston suggested a citizens advisory group and public meetings to receive the input for the recovery program.

Much of the money the city will receive through that program will be for upgrading existing park facilities, Ralston said.

"We've got some facilities that are going to need some rehabilitation" because of age or lack of preventive maintenance, Ralston said.

Sites in need of some upgrading work, according to Ralston, are city pools, Fairbanks Park, Deming Park and the Torner House Girl's Club.

Some of that work will be included in the city's proposals for its recovery plan currently being drawn up to cover a five-year period

"Something new is nice, but you still need preventive maintenance," Ralston said. He already has instituted a maintenance program for equipment and vehicles, and he plans similar action for park structures.

Cleaning the parks is another goal Ralston expressed for the local department.

Citizens can help the parks stay clean by picking up their trash after a visit and by reporting any suspicious activity, Ralston said. "We have to clean up the messes; we don't make them," he said of his employees.

Another problem cited by Ralston is use of drugs in Deming Park. Some younger people have been selling and using drugs at the city's largest park, he reported.

Ralston said any person caught

### Someone You Should Know

in such activity there will be prosecuted to the maximum extent allowed by the law.

The energetic superintendent is planning activities to make Deming Park more appealing to families. Among the proposed events are ensemble presentations by an orchestra. Also, more a bigger variety of food will be offered at that park's concession stand

Ralston also said he would try to get a police officer assigned to the park for the summer.

Many of Ralston's thoughts are geared toward the long-range period, but the department already is preparing for spring. Included among that work is cleaning, remodeling of the Rea

Park clubhouse and removal of wrecked storage buildings that are to be replaced with new structures this year.

tures this year.

Although he is new to the city park system, park work is not new for Ralston. He is an Indiana State University graduate with a Master's Degree in recreation and a minor in public administration.

While in college he worked as a caretaker at Fowler Park. He also has been the superintendent of Turkey Run State Park and supervisor over nine state parks.

One of the reasons Ralston gave up his state park system job for Terre Haute was because he was away from his family three or four nights a week.

nights a week.

Also, "I wanted to get on my own where I was totally responsible for my own department," Ralston said. He explained that although he supervised nine state parks someone else made the final decisions concerning policy.

Not all of Ralston's life is devoted to his work. He enjoys spending time with his wife, Nancy, and their two children.

One of Ralston's pastimes is fishing and he hopes his threeyear-old daughter soon will be joining him with a pole and line.



#### Community Affairs File

Kurt Culbertson 415 S. Spring Aspen, Colorado 81611

March 31, 1980

Enclosed you will find a few xeroxed articles about George E. Kessler's landscaping work in Terre Haute, Indiana. (Please enclose \$1.10 plus postage for the cost to the library.)

The Jan. 12th article "Deming Boulevard To Be Built Soon" was interesting to me because after 58 years, this hasn't been completed. For instance:

"Intersections for fifteen new streets to be opened in the future also will be constructed leading from the boulevard..."

These streets, which were supposed to connect Poplar St. and Edgewood Grove have never (1980) been built - though sidewalks have been built along Ohio Boulevard, and to my knowledge it was never called Deming Boulevard as the article heading states.

In regard to the May 19, 1913, article "Kessler Urges..." The park site across the river from Terre Haute (Taylorville) was developed nicely with sidewalks and the planting of evergreens. However, from my childhood (1950) the area has been extensively vandalized and is not well-maintained at this date.

The Fort Harrison site was never developed into a public park though the Elk's Fort Harrison Country Club has a golf course there now.

In this letter we are also enclosing several (6) pages from the Monthly Publication of the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce for 1920-21. One of these articles states that Mr. W. S. Rea bequeathed \$100,000 for a park. This refers to the present Rea Park that was purchased at the south edge of town (on S. 7th St.) (and is now a well-maintained Golf Course with an architecturally distinguished clubhouse).

The article, pg. 76, states "His plans call for a boulevard of 36 miles, completely surrounding the city..." This plan was never completed; however, on pg. 27 the stadium referred to was built and was used for semi-pro baseball games through the 1940's. That stadium has since been torn down (except for the entrance arcade) and has been rebuilt for Indiana State University football games.

The Book of Terre Haute, pag. 13, in referring to Deming Park is correct in stating that Deming Park was "by far the most important purchase of additional acreage by the Park Board..."

Down through the years, it has proved to be, perhaps, Terre Haute's most popular city park.

If you need more information, please write the

Vigo County Public Library One Library Square Terre Haute, Indiand 47807

Sincerely,

David N. Lewis

Special Collections Librarian

Indiana Historical Society Library 140 N. Senate Avenue Indianayoolis, Indiana 40204

Dear Sir or Madam, I am presently involved with research on the work of George E. Kessler, the pioneer landscape architect. Mr. Kessler's Career spanned the years from 1890 until his death in 1923. During this period, he was involved in the following projects

> 1) Park and Bowlevard Plan - South Bend 1912 2) Crown Hill Cemetary Plan- Indianapoli8 Docte Unknown 3) Plan for the Charles 9. Lewis Estate-Indianapolis Date Unknown

(4) Park and Boulevard Plan-Terre Haute 1920 5) Plan for Butter University - Fairview 1923 6) Park and Boulevard Plan-Fort Wayne 1912 7) Waster Plan for Indianapolis 1905

Any information you may be able to provide on Mr. Kessler or these projects would be greatly appreciated. Thank you very much for your assistance.

Yours truly, Kurt Culbertson 415 9. Spring Aspen, Colorado 81411

in Indiana:

catch felo Tribeens Jan 12, 1922 See alser Journal of 2-150 2-109 printouts ty of JH March 2, 1921 6 xeroxes

#### INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY

(WILLIAM HENRY SMITH MEMORIAL)

315 West Ohio Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46202 Telephone: 317-232-1879

26 March 1980

Mr. Clarence Brink Reference Librarian Vigo County Public Library 1 Library Square Terre Haute, IN 47807

Mr. Brink:

I am enclosing a copy of an inquiry received here recently with which I hope you may be able to help, particularly with the portion(s) checked.

Any suggestions, also, of others who may be able to add information will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Thomas Rumer Librarian

enc.

## Several policies adopted for park swimming pools

The city park and recreation board Tuesday adopted policies to be implemented at local swimming pools this summer, according to Pat Ralston, park superintendent.

Included in the policy statement was a raise in general admission prices. Persons through the age of 15 will be charged 50 cents instead of 25 cents charged previously. Adult fees—for persons 16 and older—will be raised from 50 cents to 75 cents.

City pools are located in Deming, Sheridan and Voorhees parks.

Also adopted in the policy is a \$25 per week charge for groups wishing to use the pools before regular hours. The fee will be used to defray expenses of chemicals, bath house operations, filtration and clean-up ef-

forts, the policy stated.

The organization charge was opposed by a representative of the Terre Haute Aquatic Club who stated the group cannot afford to pay the fee.

Another item included in the swimming pool policy calls for a free-day each month given to recognized local groups, including youth organizations. Under the plan, the first 20 members of the group are admitted free and all other members are charged the regular rate.

In other business Tuesday:

• The board approved a \$125 fee for teams involved in the 1980 Memorial Park softball program. The fee is used to cover the cost of umpires, softballs and replacement of lights. The fee had previously been \$100.

• A contract agreement reportedly was entered into with Snell Environmental, Indianapolis, to aid as a consultant in a new city park plan

currently being developed.

• Ralston reported the first quarter income at local golf courses has been \$13,395 in season ticket sales and green fees. The figure compared to \$6,077 during the same period last year, representing an increase of 105 percent.

REFERENCE DO NOT CIRCULATE



### Most Park Equipment Is 'Good'

A master plan for the city park and recreation department indicates there are increasing opportunities for people to participate in leisure-time activities. It is the department's goal to meet increasing park and recreation needs, according to Pat Ralston, park superintendent.

Recently, the city acquired an \$18,166 federal matching grant to examine the inventory of park department equipment and property. Ralston said a study is to be made to determine priorities of the park system. He said the study will include examination of maintenance needs of local swimming pools.

In the past, there have been problems with swimming pool equipment and Ralston is hopeful a study will reveal what financial obligations the city must make to repair or replace the equipment.

Because the city was able to procure funds to inventory the use of existing park facilities, Terre Haute now is qualified to apply for federal park and recreation grants on a 70-30 federal-local matching basis. The city now participates in a 50-50 matching grant program.

Ralston said most park equipment is in "good shape," although he said there is a need to expand facilities at Hulman Links. Many persons have asked the city to build a clubhouse and a family/recreation facility at the golf course, but the park superintendent said there currently are not local funds to initiate the projects.

The city recently upgraded facilities at Rea Park and its clubhouse and is considering use of funds to upgrade Collett Park and Fairbanks Park.

### Views given on vandalism in area parks

To the editor:

I have been interested in the questions and comments from your readers concerning park security. Security is an important issue that all citizens should be cognizant of concerning our city and county parks. It is easy for community-minded citizens to take for granted an important community resource, such as our parks, and expect that they will always be in perfect, usable condition. Here in the Vigo County and Terre Haute we are fortunate to have talented, dedicated professional park and recreation staff persons who accomplish their assigned responsibilities.

Administration, management and supervision of community parks are being conducted by quality personnel. The maintenance and custodial employees are doing their best to keep the parks in usable condition and to clean up after major event. Occasionally, there is a need to repair and clean up after minor vandalism and the maintenance crews have made every effort to do so. At times when there have been more severe security problems, police and sheriff personnel have responded on request. These services the publics for and rightly expects.

I believe that all citizens should recognize their responsibilities in sharing the operation of the parks. Each of us needs to beome more aware that we (in a small way) actually possess our community parks. By assuming part of the ownership of community parks, we then can be more aware that the operation and conduct of all of our parks will be more efficient.

Specifically, as interested citizens (and neighbors to our community parks) we can be aware of what is going on, call attention to the park personnel when something is not right and, most importantly, notify the police and sheriff's department when their help is needed.

By becoming more involved we can help in the efficient management of all of our park facilities. As stated, this involvement need only be the recognition that we share in the possession of our park and recreation facilities.

> Max Miller Vigo Park Board President

To the editor:

Regarding the problem of vandalism, which is not only in city and county parks but also includes private properties, cars, trucks, etc., the first step, of course, has to be to catch the culprit or culprits as there is generally more than one included in the venture.

I believe the forcing of the guilty party to work and pay back the costs of the damage could be the most effective course due to the fact that knowing the money he's working for is not benefiting him and also due to the length of time which he must put in to earn that money, daily reminding of the senselessness of the deed (not allowing the parents of the guilty party to pay the bill.)

Of course, they could be thrown in jail, but for teen-agers, this only allows them a badge, showing how tough they are, and then on the other hand, we could retreat back a few centuries and revive the whipping post, applying so many lashes for

whatever the violation which I'm sure would deter many, but again the scars of the whip would be a badge of toughness to his fellows in some cases. So what's to be done?

Simeon Harris 1416 N. 23rd St.

To the editor:

Granted, park officials could patrol our parks more in an attempt to prevent vandalism. However, we as citizens should do our part as well. Parks are provided by tax money for everyone's enjoyment and each citizen should feel responsible for parks' upkeep and be considerate enough of other people to resist doing any harm to the parks.

Name withheld on request

To the editor:

Vandals might be discouraged from tearing up the parks if they had to repair the damage they do with their four-wheel drive vehicles and cars in parks.

Name withheld on request

Today's letters are in response to the Readers' Forum question posed in Monday's TRIBUNE. Each Monday a new question is asked in the Readers' Forum. Replies should be mailed to Readers' Forum, The TRIBUNE, 721 Wabash Ave., Terre Haute, IN 47808. All letters must carry a name, address and phone number of the sender. Names will be withheld on request, but all letters must be signed. Phone numbers will not be printed, but will be used for verification purposes if necessary. Letters should be received by The TRIBUNE no later than 3 p.m. Thursday for Saturday publication. Replies should be limited to 300 words and are subject to editing.

### Park plan input sough

The Terre Haute Park and Recreation Department has scheduled turee meetings for next week to receive public input on a new plan being developed for the local parks, according to Nancy Braxton, park planner.

The city is developing a Recovery Action Program Plan to update the department's current master plan. The program's aim is to produce a workable, comprehensive plan that will aid in meeting present and future park and recreation needs. Ms. Braxton said.

The public hearings are set for:

- 6:30 p.m. May 20 at Collett Park.
- 6:30 p.m. May 21 at Hyte Center. • 6:30 p.m. May 22 at Dobbs Park.

Citizen input to the plan is important' and the meetings are to help establish priorities citizens have for their parks.

At the meetings, an explanation of the Recovery Action Program will be given and citizens will be allowed to comment, Ms. Braxton said.

"This is the most important part of the plan because if you don't have the citizen input, the plan just falls," Ms.

Braxton stated.

More public meetings might take place in June. Ms. Braxton reported.

A recovery Action Program Plan will make the city eligible for federal funding on a 70 percent/30 percent basis. The money is to be for rehabilitation of parks.

Community Affairs File

# Citizen Input Vital: Park Chief By CHRIS COMBS 1980 Prised of 70 percent federal monies rehabilitation, Ralston said. Funds existing facilities and knowing who

Star Staff Writer

Citizen input is vital to establish priorities and help establish a valuable plan for city park rehabilitation. Park Superintendent Pat Ralston told a meeting of the Highland Neighborhood Association Tuesday night.

Explaining Terre Haute is one of 10 Indiana cities eligible for funding through a federal Recovery Action Program grant, Ralston said city parks are in need of improvement.

Presently, a survey evaluating citizens' assessment of city parks and the improvements needed is being conducted and Ralston and other park planners are visiting groups such as the neighborhood associations to explain the program and gain input.

Ralston said people may have been skeptical in the past about proposals because they were not informed, but added citizens would be made aware of the plans included in the Recovery Action Program.

"Terre Haute is lacking in pride and the community needs to become more involved and conscious,' Ralston said.

Funds for the program are .com-

and 30 percent local monies. Ralston said 15 percent of local funding would come from Community Block Development monies and which would be matched by additional federal money.

The Recovery Action Program is implemented over a five-year period and is designed for inner city park are used for restoring existing facilities.

Preliminary planning includes establishing priorities, objectives, an implementation plan and intent to maintain existing appropriations.

Therefore, Ralston and Nancy Braxton, park planner, emphasized to the group the need for an inventory of

existing facilities and knowing what the people want.

In addition to explaining the Recovery Action Program, Ralston told the group of about 25 residents proposals from the association for lighting and benches in Anaconda Park could be met.

The association had compiled a list of proposals for the park which also included additional toddler equipment and land expansion.

Ralston said there was no money at present for more playground equipment, however land expansion is being pursued by the department.

# Park employees get union representation

By BRYAN TAYLOR Tribune Staff Writer

Union representation for Park Department employees was approved Wednesday by the Board of Public Works and Safety when it met in

regular weekly session.

Board members said they approved recognizing Laborers International Union of North America Local 204 as the sole bargaining agent for the park employees in the area of wages, hours and working conditions.

Although the board did not sign any documents at Wednesday's meeting in connection with the union approval, the members did say they

approved it.

Other city employees who already have have bargaining representation are workers in local cemeteries, the sewage plant, the street department, the bus utility, the Fire Department and the Police Department. The laborers local represents cemetery and street employees.

In other business Wednesday, the board decided it needs to advertise specifications for a new trash removal contract for the city. The current contract ends this month, according to City Controller Tharon Geckeler, a member of the board.

Specifications are to be reviewed and then advertised.

Also at Wednesday's meeting, the board received bids on a new backhoe to be used by the cemetery department. The bids were taken under advisement for study to see if they met advertised specifications.

The bids for a new backhoe were \$9,500 from Case Underground Equipment, Indianapolis, and \$11,998 from Lawn & Garden Tractor, West Terre Haute. Case also submitted a bid of \$8,500 for a used backhoe.

In other matters Wednesday:

• The board took under advisement a temporary street closing request to allow a block party on Wilson Drive between 25th and 27th streets from 6 to 11 p.m. June 20. The matter was tabled for study.

 Handicapped parking spaces were approved for Mabel Hineline, 207 N. 23rd St., and for Jerome J.

Courtney, 1013 N. Eighth St.

• Board members voted to have the Street Department remove 50 feet of parking from both sides of Eighth Street just north of Farrington St. The move is being made because of a reported visibility problem resulting from parked cars at that intersection, reports indicated.

REFERENCE DO NOT CIRCULATE Community Affairs File

KENNETH COY, President

WM. HAMILTON, Secretary

EUGENE VEROSTKO, Vice President

GLORIA ETHERIDGE, Board Member

P. PETE CHALOS, Mayor

RECREATION OF STATE INDIANT

ROOM 218 CITY HALL TERRE HAUTE, IN 47807 PH. 812-232-2727 Parks + Recreation

PATRICK R. RALSTON, Superintendent RAY L. GODDARD, Director of Golf RICHARD HANLEY, Director of Recreation DAVID KINTZ, Director of Maintenance MARCY CHERVENKO, Secretary

#### RECOVERY ACTION PROGRAM SURVEY

PLEASE TAKE A FEW MOMENTS TO LET US KNOW WHAT YOU WANT AND NEED.

Surveys may be picked up June 23, 1980 through June 27, 1980 at the Terre Haute Park and Recreation Department in Room 218, City Hall, and at the Mayor's Office.

The purpose of the Recovery Action Program is to update the Terre Haute Park and Recreation Master Plan and to produce a workable, comprehensive park plan that will serve to aid in meeting present and foreseeable future park and recreation needs in the city.

A vital portion of this plan, according to the March 10, 1980 Federal Register, is citizen participation. Therefore, as part of the Terre Haute Recovery Action Program, it is our intention to assess the needs and desires of the citizens of Terre Haute in order to develop an ongoing, workable plan.

The Recovery Action Program Plan will also be a focal point for bringing 70%/30% Federal funding into Terre Haute to improve the park and recreation system.

For more information please contact Nancy Braxton, Park Planner, at 232-2727 or 232-6896.

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Vige County Public Library

	Location of Survey Season Survey taken Winter Spring Summer		Date Day of Week Time of Day	
BASE	INFORMATION			
A-1	AGE CATEGORY			
	Pre Teenager Teenager (13-19) Adult (20 - 40) Adult (40 - 65) Senior Citizen			
A-2	How close do you live	to the nearest p	ark?	
	5 blocks or less 5 to 10 blocks 10 or more blocks			
A-3	Which park is that?		(Code)	
A-4	Which park do you most	t often visit?		
A-5	How do you get to that	t park?		
	Walk Bicycle Automobile Bus Other			
A-6	What non-park, but le	isure activities	do you most often 1	take part in?.
USE	AND AWARENESS			
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	Charles of Property	More than Weekly H E	More than Monthly H E	Less Often H E
	Winter [ Spring [ Summer [ Fall [			
B-2	Under what conditions	do you most ofte	en visit a park?	
	Alone W/family W/friends Groups	H E		

D-3	Are there other per	opre in you			ize park ruci	116163:
	Yes		#No•			
	No					
B-4	Do you know how to and schedules?	locate in	formation about th	e parks d	ept. programs	
	Yes					
	No					
	Maybe					
B-5	How do you most of	ten learn	of these programs	and sched	ule?	
	Friend					
	Newspaper					
	Major					
	Local					
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B-6	Which is most import	ant to you	?			
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	Both are about	equal				
CONDI.	TIONS OF FACILITIE	<u>ES</u>				
	THIS NEXT SERIES OF WITH RESPECT TO THE	QUESTIONS	IS ORIENTED TOWARD	DETERMIN	ING YOUR ATTI	TUDE .
		1000				
C-1	Do parks in your net	ighborhood	visually appear as			
	Pleasant and in	nviting				
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	Dirty with some	e deteriora	tion 🔲 -			
	Badly deteriora	ated				
C-2	How do you feel park	s in your	neighborhood are m	naintained	1?	
			Excellent	Fair	Poor ·	
	Buildings					
	Outdoor Equipme	ent				
	Grounds & Open	space				
C-3	Do you feel vandali	sm of park	equipment and fac	ilities i	s a problem?	
	Yes					
	No			4 5	(0) 1	
	Don't Know					
C-4	Do you feel you have maintenance and var			parks de	pt. about poo	r
			tarm krobered.			
	Yes		3			
	No					
	Don't Know	-				

C-5	With respect to park facil needed, do they receive	lities in your neighborhood, when repairs are
	Prompt Attention Periodic Attention	
C-6	Ignored How are parks in your neight city wide?	LJ hborhood maintained compared to park facilities
	Better Worse Don't Know	
C-7	How do your Terre Haute systems which you have know	city parks compare to other City parks wledge of?
	Better Worse Don't Know	
<b>C-</b> 8	How would you rate park fa	cilities with respect to safety?
	Almost always safe	
	Sometimes unsafe	Comment_
	Not safe at any time	☐ Comment_
NECDO A	ND DECIDEC	
NEEDS- A		ns is oriented toward establishing your attitude
	with respect to needs and d	lesires.
D-1	Would you welcome the opportunity in a second responsible to the composition of the compo	rtunity to help plan improvements to your
	Yes	
	No	
4	Maybe	
D-2	What do you like most abou	t the park you visit?
	1.	
	2.	
	3.	
D-3	Which activities or facili neighborhood or community?	ties do you feel are most deficient in your (Top three only)
	1	
	3.	
1 .		
D-4		y user fees to use these facilities?
	Yes. If reasonable	
	Probably Not	
	No .	

D-5 Please respond to the following statements:

does not	s department receive their re of tax revenues	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Don't Know
	er of parks e decreased					
STATE OF STA	en space is needed		П		П	
	on of existing					
faciliti high pri	es should receive ority		U	U		
	ents along the rridor should receive ority					
	t and pedestrians ave better access _		. 🗆			
provide	s department should transportation Dark facilities					
D-6 Which of the regular basi	following recreationa s? and are these in a	park or	ities do you non-park fac k Facilities	cilities?	e in on a	<u>es</u>
ACTIVE SPORTS	Frisbee Baseball				占	
ACTIVE 31 OKTS	Softball		Ö			
	Volleyball					
	Soccer					*** *******
	Football					* * 4 4
	Hockey					
	Tennis					
	Racketball	**				
	Golf.					1 - 44
	Archery					
	Rollerskating					
	Skate Boarding					
MATER RELATED	Horseshoes					
	Swimming				Ц.	
	Sun Bathing					
	Canoeing/Boating					
	Fishing					
WINTER SPORTS	Ice Skating					
	Sledding					
	Cross Country Skiing	1.				
	Snowmobiling_					
PASSIVE RECREATION .	Camping					National States
	Picnicking					
	Interpretive Center					
	Nature Centers					
TRAIL ORIENTED	Jogging/Bicycling					
	Hiking					
	Nature Walks					
PROGRAMS	Culture					
	Music					
	Theatre					
OTHER	Playgrounds					
	Off road vehicles					
	Indoor activities					

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### NEEDS AND DESIRES

D-7	Would you utilize a park that	stretches along:
		YES NO
	1. The Wabash River	
	A. North of Wabash Ave.	
	B. South of Wabash Ave.	
	2. Thompson Ditch	
	3. Abandoned Railroad Right of-Ways	
D-8	Do you ride a bicycle for:	
		YES NO
	1. Transportation	
	2. Recreation	
D-9	Do you ride a bicycle to:	
		YES NO
	1. Work	
	2. School	
	3. Shopping Areas	
	4. Parks	
	5. Other	
D-10	Would you use bicycle paths	if they were provided?
al.	YES	ЙО
D-11	Which type(s) of bicycle pat	th would you use?
	Class I (Bicycle Trai separated from motor v an open space or barri	ehicular roadways by
	Class II (Bicycle Lane roadway separated from by a paint stripe, curl	) - A portion of the motor vehicular traffic b, or other similar devices
	Class III (Shared Roads is officially designate route but which is open traffic.	ed and marked as a bicycle
D-12	Where do you want a bicycle	path in Terre Haute?
	III 2 III I SAN HER STATE OF THE STATE OF	

#### FROM POOL, GOLF FEES

### Huge Income Puzzles Terre Haute Officials

STAR STATE REPORT

Terre Haute, Ind. — Officials here are puzzled by a 233 percent increase in income from swimming pool fees and other major income increases at city golf courses.

"I have very good workers, of course, and we raised the fees for these facilities a token amount. But neither of these factors can fully explain the large added income," said Parks Department Superintendent Pat Ralston.

Swimming pool fees for the three city pools were raised from 25 cents to 50 cents for children and from 50 cents to 75 cents for adults. Swimming pools are taking in 233 percent more than they did during the same period last year.

DAILY GREEN FEES for the two city golf courses were increased an additional 50 cents. The income from golf fees is up 54 percent at Rea Park Golf Course and 30 percent at Hulman Links.

More than \$100,000 in fees have been collected from these facilities during the first six months of the year, according to a semi-annual report Ralston has just submitted to the mayor.

Pat Dougherty, parks superintendent during the previous city administration and now director of Vigo County Manpower Program, said he understands that fees have been increased, but refused further comment. "I don't have any information available and it is not fair to involve me," he said.

Mayor Pete Chalos credits "much better management and record keeping" for the increases.

"WE HAVE EXCELLENT supervisory people. We did not increase fees nearly enough to account for the increased revenue," Chalos said.

The State Board of Accounts recently completed an audit of 1978 park records, Chalos said. "We'll be going over past records and the state audit and will know more when we get through," he said.

The city administration requested an audit of all departments when Chalos took office in January but city controller Tharon Geckler said, "State authorities had to put us in line, because they are so swamped. It will be some time before all the audits are done."

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE DO NOT CIRCULATE

### Park renovation plans announced here 8750,000, Keonen

Tribune Staff Writer

The city administration is planning for the renovation of Fairbanks and Voorhees parks, according to Pat Ralston, park superintendent.

Officials from the Park Department and the Department of Redevelopment have met with representatives of five architectural firms and asked them to come up with potential costs and plans for the proposed renovations. Ralston said during a Tuesday meeting of the city Park and Recreation Board

Nothing definite about renovation at either park has been decided, but planning has been started now in hopes construction can begin at both parks next year, Ralston said. Fairbanks Park is located on the Wabash River, and Voorhees Park is located at Prairieton Road and Voorhees Street.

Much of what might be done depends on the city's ability to obtain federal money for the work, according to Ralston.

The Department of Redevelopment is planning to contribute between \$200,000 and \$250,000 of its federal Community Development Block Grant money for work at each park, Ralston said.

That money is to be submitted provided the Park Department can come up with the remainder of the cost from other federal sources, Ralston reported. The TRIBUNE was unable to reach Marc Elliott, redevelopment director, by press time for his comment on the project.

The park superintendent said the city is planning to apply for a grant from the federal Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service to renovate Fairbanks Park. Under that program the grant would pay 70 percent of the project with the city matching the remaining 30 percent through its block grant money, Ralston said. He estimated the Fairbanks project could cost from 700,000 to

The funding source being considered for Voorhees Park is the Land and Water Conservation Fund through the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Ralston said.

Officials from the city must apply for all of the federal funds prior to obtaining them. Such applications can be made after potential designs are considered.

Although no definite plans have been determined vet, officials have an idea what they want done at the two parks.

Proposed for Fairbanks Park: road improvements and parking areas; renovation of the Dresser Memorial Monument: a bandshell cover; installation of a major boat launch facility on the river; playground equipment; and landscaping.

Objectives at Voorhees Park include: playground equipment; swimming pool renovation; road renovation; shelter construction; landscaping; and improvements at the ball diamond.

The Park Department and the Department of Redevelopment already have been involved with plans for renovation of Spencer F. Ball Park on the city's north side.

That project has been put under bid contract and groundbreaking could take place next week, Ralston reported. Contracts for that project were signed by the park board Tuesday.

In other park board business:

- Raiston released a second-quarter report to the board. According to the report income was up over last year at Rea Park, Hulman Links and the three city pools. The pools showed a 233 percent increase in revenues with intake of \$5,794 so far this year compared to \$1,737 during the same time last year, Ralston said.
- Recreation Director Richard Hanley reported that every Wednesday a van has been picking up interested senior citizens at local elderly housing complexes for a trip to Dobbs Park where they are presented a program by naturalists.

# Vandalism reported at parks

Tribune Staff Writer
Construction of shelter buildings
in five neighborhood parks is not
finished yet, but some of the structures already have received vandalism.

At Sheridan Park, 28th and Beech streets, someone has written on the walls of a restroom with what appears to be crayon. Mud was wiped on the walls of the another restroom in that shelter.

Richard Hanley, director of recreation for the park department, reported restroom doors have not been put up yet and vandals have open access to those rooms.

In addition to the writing on the walls at Sheridan, a cement shelf was chipped and someone wrote in it while it was still wet.

Another shelter under construction at Rose Park, 15th and Locust streets, also sustained a damaged cement shelf. Apparently someone has been using concrete blocks laying around the site and hitting them against the shelf.

No major damage was apparent at the Thompson Park shelter, 17th and Oak streets, but the TRIBUNE observed two children climbing its walls and playing with some blocks used at that construction site.

A person playing basketball at the park reported young children have been tearing up some of the concrete blocks stored at the site.

No major damage has been reported at Voorhees Park, Indiana 63 and Voorhees Street, and at Memorial Park, Eighth Avenue and Fourth Street.

The structures are being constructed with funds from the federal Community Development Block Grant money administered locally by the Department of Redevelopment.

Police Chief Gerald Loudermilk reported his department's tactical unit has been active in the parks this year making arrests and it will continue to work in the parks.

Also, the uniformed division has been notified to increase its patrols of the parks where the vandalism is occurring, Loudermilk said.

# Receipts at city pools Community Affairs File Community Affairs File Community Affairs File

Increased pool fees and a hot summer may have contributed to the doubling of receipts at city pools this year, according to park officials.

The total of gross receipts from the three city pools was listed by park officials at \$20,922 for the summer of 1980. Pools are located at Deming, Voorhees and Sheridan parks.

Total receipts for 1979 were listed

at \$9,799

During the previous three years, pool receipts stayed at about the same level: \$9,799 in 1979; \$9,856 in 1978; and \$9,738 in 1977.

Deming Park showed the most business this year with receipts adding up to about \$9,300. Approximate figures for the other parks are: \$5,600 for Voorhees and \$5,800 for Sheridan.

One reason for the increase in pool receipts, according to Richard Hanley, park department recreation director, was the increase in fees.

The cost of a pool visit for children under the age of 16 was raised from 25 cents to 50 cents. The charge for persons 16 and over was increased from 50 cents to 75 cents.

Another contributing factor to the increase in receipts, Hanley said, was this year's extremely hot summer, especially during July. All three pools did more business in July than they did in June or August.

Only four days of activity were lost at the pools this summer because of rain, according to Park Department statistics. T SEP 1 2 1980

In addition to the fees and the weather, a contributing factor to the boost in receipts was the lack of any major mechanical breakdowns that would force the closing of a pool, Hanley said.

Although the pools have increased their income, they still do not make

any money, Hanley reported.

Salaries for pool managers and lifeguards total approximately \$26,000 and expenses for materials and operations run about \$5,000 to \$7,000, Hanley estimated.

REFERENCE DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

# Vigo County Public Library

### Gift catalog offers ideas for city parks

The Park and Recreation Department has compiled a gift catalog of items local persons could donate to the city parks, according to Patrick Ralston, park superintendent.

Items that can be purchased include playground equipment, picnic tables and landscaping.

Five hundred of the catalogs were to be mailed out Thursday to businesses, industries and social service organizations, Ralston reported.

Individuals who wish to donate an item from the catalog can do so by contacting the Park and Recreation Department at City Hall.

Not enough catalogs have been printed to distribute to all residences in the city, Ralston said.

The reason the city is seeking donations through the catalog is because "our tax dollars are getting shorter," Ralston said.

Persons with lots of civic pride and money can donate a piece of play-ground equipment called a "tube tower." It lists for \$6,250 in the catalog.

The smallest priced item in the catalog is a pitcher's plate listing for \$9.75.

Other items that can be donated include swings, park benches, grills, bike racks, softball bases, tennis posts, basketball goals, concrete parking curbs, bleachers and a variety of playground equipment.

The catalog also lists various park sites and the type of equipment they need.

The catalogs cost about \$400 to print and that cost was paid by a local plant nursery business and a playground equipment company.

### Park department receives donation

The city park department has received its first donation resulting from a gift catalog it published earlier this month.

Quality Fence Co. has donated \$105 for the purchase of a new grill at Collett Park, according to Park Superintendent Pat Ralston.

Earlier this month, the park department released a gift catalog of items local persons could donate to the city parks.

About 1,000 of the catalogs were mailed to businesses, industries, civic organizations, doctors and lawyers, Ralston reported.

The catalog lists a variety of items those groups could donate to the city park system. The booklet also tells what parks need a certain piece of equipment.

Items that can be purchased include playground equipment, picnic tables and landscaping.

The highest price item lists for \$6,250, a piece of playground equipment called a "tube tower," and the smallest priced item is a pitcher's plate at \$9.75.

When the catalog was announced, Ralston said it was being distributed because "our tax dollars are getting shorter."

REFERENCE DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Attairs File

# Funding application approved

A resolution approving the application for a federal grant to aid in renovation of two city pools was approved by the park board Monday afternoon.

The board approved the seeking of money for renovation of Sheridan and Voorhees pools, a project totaling \$240,000, according to Park Superintendent Pat Ralston.

The city will apply for a \$160,000 grant from the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service for the project, Ralston explained.

The city will provide the rest of the funding with \$80,000 from its allotment of federal Community Development Block Grant money, he added.

The city should know by December if it receives approval of the \$160,000 grant, according to Ralston.

If approval is not gained at that time, the city application could be considered again during a March funding period, he said.

Ralston said he hopes the pool renovation can be completed prior to the next swimming season, but he added at the present time he could not be sure that would be possible.

The work planned for each pool, according to Ralston, includes: a new liner, a new filter system, new plumbing, updating of showers, updating the locker room and making the facilities more secure against crime.

Of the total project amount, about \$30,000 will be used to install curbs and gutters at Voorhees Park, Ralston reported.

In addition to the Voorhees and Sheridan pools, the city has a pool at Deming Park. All of the city pools were built in 1962.

#### Park steem Community Affairs File

**Five-year city** park recovery plan approved

A Park Department five-year recovery plan has been approved by federal authorities and it could improve Terre Haute's chances for ob-

taining federal money.

Mayor Pete Chalos was notified by letter this week the city's Recovery Action Program for the Park Department has been approved by the federal Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

With the plan approved, the city can now apply for certain federal funding on a 70-30 percentage basis, according to Park Superintendent Pat Ralston. That means the federal government would pay 70 percent of a project's cost and the city would come up with the remainder.

The plan does not guarantee Terre Haute will get the federal money, but the chances are greatly improved, Ralston pointed out. The money is distributed on a project basis and the amounts being sought would depend

on the size of the proposed work.

Ten cities in Indiana have been designated as eligible for the program and Terre Haute is the only one of those to have its recovery plan completed, according to Ralston.

The plan encompasses all facets of the Park Department, including assessment of existing facilities, re-commendations for management personnel and specific plans for each city park.

The main focus of the plan is upgrading of existing facilities. The department will not be doing much expansion and the department Is "locked in" to rehabilitation of what

it already has, Rals on said.

The only expansion work listed for the immediate future is implementation of a park to coincide with construction of a firehouse at Ninth Street and College Avenue.

Other sites scheduled for renovation under the plan include Fairbanks Park, Hyte Center, the Torner House Girl's Club and the Collett Park Pavilion.

The plan already has improved the rating chances of an application for a \$200,000 project to renovate Sheridan and Voorhees pools, Ralston stated.

In other Park Department news, Ralston reported a \$100,000 renova-tion project for Voorhees Park has received approval for federal fund-

Work planned there includes a parking lot, lanscaping, renovation of a large shelter and security lights, Ralston said. Design work reportedly has started on the project.

Another park renovation project being planned has been hit with a delay, Ralston reported. Some federal funding the city sought for renovation of Fairbanks Park was not awarded to Terre Haute this fall. Now the project will be put on a "back burner" until the next federal application period in the autumn of next year, he said.